GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2218
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
NORMS FOR BUFFER STOCK
Rawale Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the current buffer stock norms for foodgrains in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes any reduction in buffer stock norms to cut food subsidy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the food subsidy is proposed to reduced?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): The current minimum buffer stock norms for foodgrains (wheat & rice)in the country are as under:-

(figures in lakh tons)

Date	Rice	Wheat	Total
1st April	122	40	162
1st July	98	171	269
1st October	52	110	162
1st January	118	82	200

(b): No, Sir.

(c): Does not arise.

(d): Following important steps have been taken/are being taken by FCI to reduce the food subsidy:-

(i) Adhering to the procurement and movement ratio norms of 1:1.35 as fixed by the Govt. of India to reduce the expenditure on freight.

(ii) Making continuous efforts to reduce losses taking place in handling of foodgrains.

(iii) Making efforts to reduce the incurrence of Railway demurrage charges.

(iv) Controlling the administrative cost by following minimum recruitment of resultant entry level posts in spite of increased volume of operations and implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

(v) Encouraging decentralized procurement and distribution of foodgrains.

(vi) Optimisation of foodgrains movement and reduction of demurrage charges.

(vii) Disposal of old stock of foodgrains leading to reduction of carrying cost.